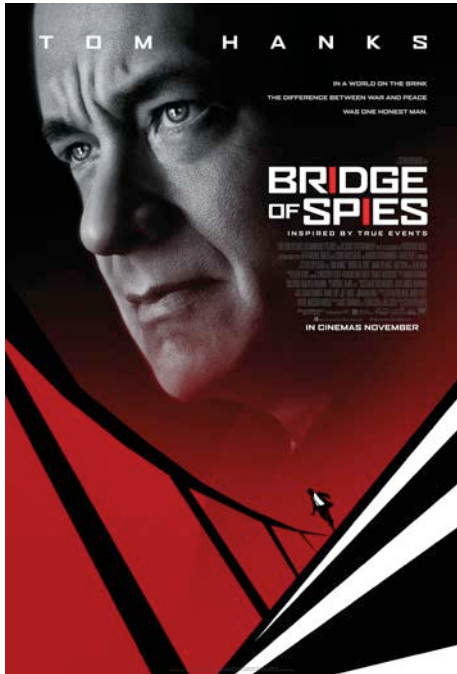




October 29, 2015

BRIDGE OF SPIES



Bridge of Spies is a masterpiece that only comes along when Spielberg is at the helm and Hanks is at his Oscar-worthy best. Yes, I said it. *Bridge of Spies* is the first film I can honestly say is guaranteed to make it into the nominations. Tom Hanks proves once again that he is to America what Daniel Day Lewis is to Europe – the best there is. In this tense WWII period, spy, suspense story, based on historical events, our hero, Tom Hanks, is a smart insurance attorney who is pulled into a once-in-a-lifetime case that he uses to the fullest advantage.

No one wants him to win, not even the defendant. Because in Russia, if you are captured, who would believe that you didn't talk? In this case, none of the captured men talked. Gary Powers, an espionage pilot who was supposed to commit suicide rather than be captured stayed tough, while his Russian counterpart, "The Colonel", was just as loyal to his country. The beauty of this film is how eloquently each case was pleaded.

Enter into the midst a little complication and another captive, and the stage is set for a cold war climax that will leave you speechless. The give-and-take between Hanks and the Soviets, and Hanks and his defendant are seamless. Every person in the cast rises to the level of excellence we can expect from such great filmmakers.

Bridge of Spies reminds us that in our country, founded on the beliefs that everyone deserves competent representation, some lawyers take that responsibility very seriously. Hanks' character is the man I would want in my corner. Here is a decent, honest man who was committed to doing the right thing for the right reasons in the face of violent opposition. That is heroism. His moral and ethical victory should be lessons for us all. Sometimes you just have to stand back up no matter how many times you get knocked down. So, stand up and get to the theater and see *Bridge of Spies*. You will not be disappointed.

I give *Bridge of Spies* five golden tickets.

